



Influence of climatic factors in the incidence of multiple sclerosis relapses in a Portuguese population

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Abstract:

BACKGROUND and PURPOSE: Environmental factors are thought to be important in multiple sclerosis (MS) pathophysiology. We aimed to evaluate if there was an association between MS relapses and some climatic factors in a Portuguese population. **METHODS:** Four year retrospective study analyzing 414 MS relapses in 249 consecutive relapsing-remitting patients. Non-parametric statistics were used to compare the distribution of relapses across months and seasons. Spearman's coefficient was determined to evaluate the correlation between relapses frequency and maximum and minimum atmospheric temperatures, humidity and atmospheric pressure. **RESULTS:** The mean number of relapses was not significantly different between months or seasons. No correlation was found between relapse frequency and any climatic factor. **CONCLUSION:** Our series is one of the largest addressing the influence of specific climatic factors on MS relapses. The number of clinical MS relapses seems to be unrelated to climatic factors.

Source: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/j.1468-1331.2008.02528.x>

Resource Description

Exposure :

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Meteorological Factors, Meteorological Factors, Temperature

Geographic Feature:

resource focuses on specific type of geography

None or Unspecified

Geographic Location:

resource focuses on specific location

Non-United States

Non-United States: Europe

European Region/Country: European Country

Other European Country : Portugal

Climate Change and Human Health Literature Portal

Health Impact:

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Other Health Impact

Other Health Impact: multiple sclerosis relapses

Mitigation/Adaptation:

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Adaptation

Resource Type:

format or standard characteristic of resource

Research Article

Timescale:

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified

Vulnerability/Impact Assessment:

resource focus on process of identifying, quantifying, and prioritizing vulnerabilities in a system

A focus of content